

Press Clippings - 8/30/2023

- Shaw Local -

Ottawa police ensure Central School is OK after swatting threat

Threat was made at many schools across Illinois, administration says

By: Derek Berichello

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Ottawa police were at Central Intermediate School on Monday morning to clear and secure the building, after a swatting threat was made at many schools across Illinois. (Tom Sistik for Shaw Media)

Ottawa police were at Central Intermediate School on Monday morning to clear and secure the building after a swatting threat was made at many schools across Illinois.

“At this time, the Ottawa Police Department has reassured us the building is safe for all students and staff,” the Ottawa Elementary administration said in a statement issued to parents and the public.

Classes resumed Monday.

Police Chief Brent Roalson said the OES administration notified Ottawa police of an email received by a member of the district.

“The concern was investigated and was determined to be unsubstantiated,” Roalson said. “OES Administration was notified that the building was safe to proceed with normal business. The Ottawa Police Department will continue to investigate this

swatting incident. Due to the quick notification from Dr. Lee and the OES administration the Ottawa Police Department was able to swiftly address the situation.

At no time were students or staff in danger.”

Around the state, **South Elgin High School** administrators said the district received a call about 7:40 a.m. Monday believed to be a swatting call with a bomb threat, according to WGN News.

Daniel Wright Junior High School in Lincolnshire also reported receiving a computer-recorded message with a bomb threat, according to WGN News. After evacuations, authorities in those communities deemed both schools safe.

What is swatting?

Hundreds of cases of swatting occur annually, with some using caller ID spoofing to disguise their number. The goal is to get authorities, particularly a SWAT team, to respond to an address, according to The Associated Press.

An FBI official said in November 2022 that they believe the wave of false threats focused on schools may be coming from outside the country.

Officials said at the time that they had identified calls to about 250 colleges, 100 high schools and several junior high schools since early June falsely reporting explosive devices being planted at the schools or saying that a shooting was imminent.

The FBI said in March that the agency has monitored these growing occurrences.

- The Examiner -

U-46 parent questions use of vending machines

By: Seth Hancock

High school and middle school boys in **School District U-46** will see something out of place in the boys bathrooms this school year.

That’s because dispensers distributing “free,” paid for by taxpayers through the operations and maintenance fund, feminine hygiene products.

A parent, who wished to remain anonymous, reached out to The Examiner with some questions after the parent’s son saw the dispenser in a boys bathroom at South Elgin

High School.

The Examiner reached out to the district to get a response to those questions. What The Examiner received is best described as a response with mostly no answers.

In May, The Examiner reported the approval of a \$227,050 expenditure to purchase feminine hygiene products and vending machines. The proposal stated state law requires the products “at no cost to students, in the bathrooms of school buildings,” specifically secondary schools.

The proposal did not delineate whether that applied to both girls and boys bathrooms and The Examiner asked the district if the dispensers in boys bathrooms was part of the state’s unfunded mandate.

“All public school districts in Illinois, including School District U-46, are required to comply with State law,” Karla Jiménez, director of school and community relations, responded.

The anonymous parent’s “main question” was “why would a product that is meant solely for use by women be placed in a boys bathroom?”

Other questions from the parent included:

- Are they in the “boys bathrooms/locker rooms” at every school?
- How many have been installed in boys bathrooms?
- Are there more to be installed?
- How much was spent specifically for the boys facilities?
- Where does the funding come initially and to restock?
- Is there a plan to track supply usage?
- Were the dispensers in girls facilities prior to 2023-2024?
- Will urinals be installed in girls bathrooms “for the boys transitioning to girls.”

“Currently, menstrual hygiene dispensers are located in all middle and high school building restrooms, not locker rooms,” Jiménez responded.

“The equipment was purchased using funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The units were installed, and product usage will be monitored by District staff.”

- The Examiner -

Streamwood football team drops season opener

19-8

BY: Seth Hancock

The Streamwood football team dropped its season opener 19-8 against **Bartlett** in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Aug. 25 at Bartlett.

Bartlett had a pair of first half field goals for a 6-0 halftime advantage and added a touchdown in the third quarter for a 13-0 lead. On the kickoff, junior Aden Strong returned it 84 yards for the score and senior John Ray ran in the two-point conversion for the Sabres' only score of the night.

Senior Taro Ishikawa led Streamwood's offense with 61 rushing yards.

Despite the loss, Streamwood enters the season with a positive attitude, said Sabres coach Keith McMaster whose team was 1-8, all UEC games, last year.

"This is a great group of kids to work with," McMaster said. "They are coachable, hard working and fun. Like most years at Streamwood, I expect our team to be outnumbered and out experienced in most contests. However, we think it's one of the greatest benefits of playing for the Sabres. Kids get a lot of playing time. With the positive attitude of this year's team, they have potential to do some exciting things.

"McMaster added: "We take each week, game by game. We respect all of our opponents and give 100 percent preparation to the team that we are facing. So, our goals are to win games, one at a time.

"Ray, a running back/linebacker, and Ishikawa, a running back/defensive back, are both returning after injuries last season, and McMaster expects both to be strong contributors this season. He also expects senior offensive/defensive lineman Bob Crumlett to be "solid on both sides of the ball."

As for the UEC, McMaster expects a grind each week.

"You've always got your heavyweights in the conference that we can use as a measuring stick for our performance," McMaster said. "We start off with a difficult opponent in Week 1 and finish with South Elgin. So, there's no time off from beginning to end. There are many new coaches in the conference as well, and we look forward to competing with them as well."

